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SOURCES METHODS EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2001 2006

C O P Y

DOCUMENT BOOK 1 BERGER

Doc. No. 1
Exh. No....

I, John Alexander, Master of Elphinstone, born on 22nd March 1914 in London, and residing at Carberry Tower, Musselburgh, herewith declare the following on oath, having been warned that this Affidavit is to be submitted as evidence to the Military Tribunal at Nuremberg and that I render myself liable to punishment if I do not speak the truth:

In May 1945 before the cessation of hostilities in Germany the party of Allied Officers whom the Germans were holding as specially guarded prisoners, after being taken from Colditz (Saxony) via Koenigstein to Tittmoning and Laufen (Bavaria) were removed into the Mountain area at Markt Pongau between Salzburg and Innsbruck.

The party consisted of four British Officers (myself, who as senior acted as leader of the party; Lt. Vicount Lascelles -- now Earl of Harewood; Lt. Alexander and Lt. de Hamel), one United States Officer (Lt. John Winant, U. S. Air Force), and, in a more or less separate party, some ten Polish Officers headed by General Bor Komorowski.

Two further British Officers, Capt. Earl of Hopetoun and Capt. Earl Haig, had been left sick at Koenigstein.

The Swiss Minister to Germany and members of his Staff traced us to Markt Pongau, and the Minister subsequently prevailed upon Obergruppenfuhrer General Berger to hand the party over to Swiss hands and to allow the Swiss Legation Staff to escort us through the German lines.

I understood that General Berger took personal responsibility for this move and did not consult other members of the German Army or Government.

As far as I am aware, from the time General Berger agreed to hand us over, he did his best to see that the party should get through safely to the American lines. I did not have any personal dealings with him until after the arrangements had been made with the Swiss Minister, but from that time onwards the General's attitude and the treatment accorded to the party by his staff were correct and helpful.

General Berger sent a member of his staff with the party, when they set out for the front line, in case of difficulties, and on General Berger's instructions we were given food and drink during the journey to the front, at a house which I understood was the General's Headquarters. This was the last occasion on which

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I saw General Berger, who was polite and helpful. Before the party left his Headquarters, General Berger insisted on handing over an engraved pistol in a case to me as leader of the party, saying, as far as I can remember, that it was a token of his good wishes for our safe arrival in Allied hands.

Except for an account of the party's last days in German hands which appeared in the "Times" newspaper (London) on 19th May 1945, and which was written by myself, I do not know of any statement about these events in the English Press.

Declared by me at Edinburgh on 23rd March 1948, before Howard McLaren Butters,
Notary Public, Edinburgh, subscribing.

John Alexander Elphinstone

H M Butters
Notary Public

Certified true copy.
Huerenberg, 7 April 1948.

Dr. Gg. Froeschmann
Attorney-at-Law.

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